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MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Veterans' Affairs and Military Law Section,
Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA)
Shaoli Katana, Esq., Advocacy Director

Subject: Senate Bill 78 - Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

Date: January 30, 2023

Position: Support

The Veterans' Affairs and Military Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) supports **Senate Bill 78 - Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting**. Senate Bill 78 requires health occupations boards to issue an expedited temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets certain requirements; requires each health occupations board to include a check-off box prominently on each license, certification, or registration application form; requires the Maryland Department of Health to publish prominently certain information on its website; etc.

MSBA represents more attorneys than any other organization across the State in all practice areas. MSBA serves as the voice of Maryland's legal profession. This testimony is submitted on behalf of the MSBA's Veterans' Affairs and Military Law Section, charged with monitoring and taking positions on legislation of importance to this practice area.

Military families change duty stations frequently, and during a twenty-year career, might have in excess of ten “permanent change of station” or “PCS” moves. These moves are incredibly disruptive, and even more so for the spouse of a service member if that spouse holds a professional license. Transferring a professional license from one state to another can take months, resulting in the family member being effectively cut out of the workforce while they wait for administrative processing. Other industries have realized this, which is why the Maryland Rules of Procedure were amended a few years ago to add what amounts to temporary licensing for military spouses who are attorneys licensed in other states.

The burden created by not having some form of expedited/temporary licensure not only hurts retention in the military because of the burden it places on the military family, but it also contributes to the workforce shortage in healthcare fields. Hopefully, SB 78 will fix this problem and make Maryland a more friendly state to military families.

For the reasons stated above, MSBA’s Veterans’ Affairs and Military Law Section **supports** SB 78 and respectfully requests a **favorable report**. For additional information, please feel free to contact Shaoli Katana at MSBA at shaoli@msba.org or Section Chair, Andy Gross, at Agross@agrosslaw.com.